

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CONCEPT OF LEADERSHIP
AMONG THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION AND THE
NEO-PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES

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Conclusion

This study was carried out to compare the concept of leadership among the Nigeria Baptist Convention and the Neo-Pentecostal churches. In making this comparison therefore it is clear that Baptist leadership is by way of election or selection while that of the Neo-Pentecostals is either by way of founding a church or being appointed by the leader or founder of such a church. The implication of this is that no leader can claim the ownership of a Baptist church but the case is not the same as the Neo-Pentecostals, the founder is the owner of the church."

In another way every local Baptist Church is autonomous, that is, the congregation "as led by the Holy Spirit" have the benefit of deciding who becomes their leader. The case is not the same among the Neo-Pentecostal churches. They have no say in who becomes their leader. The founder or whosoever appointed by the founder or General Overseer becomes the pastor or the leader.

Also the Baptist church is autonomous because the pastor must carry her along in making any decision. In fact, in most occasions the church decides where they choose to go and what they choose to do with little or no regard for the pastor's position. This cannot be done in any Neo-Pentecostal church. The pastor leads and the members follow.

A Baptist pastor is more or less a supervisor of the church and its departments. He supervises what is going on in the church; hardly can he create anything that is strange to the church. He is described as an employee who is hired to maintain the status quo. A Neo-Pentecostal pastor on the other hand is an active leader of his people. He is described as a leader who nobody dares questioned.

Furthermore, a Baptist leader at whatever level is a leader as far as his followers allow him, he leads as far as the majority are in support of his leadership.

The day he loses the support of the majority, that day he loses his leadership. From the Neo-Pentecostal angle, however, a leader is not only seen as a leader, but he is actually a leader, because he is allow to lead.

Without any form of gainsaying, there is a big gap between the concept of leadership from the Baptist and the Neo-Pentecostal angle. They both claim to have leaders but a leader is a leader with teeth but must not bite unless he is supported by the led, and that description suits the Baptist. However, from the Neo-Pentecostal angle, a leader is revered, he possesses the teeth to bite and he can bite, he can act without any form of intimidation.

Recommendations

The writer has taken some time to explore the concepts of leadership both from the Baptist and Neo-Pentecostals point of view and therefore, has the following recommendations.

1. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should do a kind of overhauling her leadership concept.
2. The importance of spiritual leadership should be made known to every member of Baptist churches.
3. The Nigerian Baptist Convention must continue to maintain her position on selection of people into position of leadership, but must maintain that anyone chosen to lead must be given every support to lead as led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Godliness, integrity, good human relationships and other virtues of Christian leadership must be given priority in choosing leaders, than majoring only on academic qualifications among the Baptist.

5. The writer further recommends that church members in the Baptist circle should not misuse their privilege of the autonomy of the local church by way of becoming tyrants for those who are suppose to lead them.
6. He recommends that members should give their leaders the needed support in all ramifications.
7. For the Neo-Pentecostals, the writer recommends that the leaders must not misuse their power just because there is nobody to challenge them.
8. The followers in the Neo-Pentecostal churches should continue to follow faithfully.
9. Generally, the writer wants everyone to know that whether you are a leader or you are being led, everyone will give account of him/herself to his/her maker someday.

Suggestions for Further Research

In view of the experience gained by the researcher, the following suggestions are put forward for future researches.

1. A Comparative Study of the Concept of Leadership Among Nigerian Baptist Convention and the Neo-Pentecostal Churches: A Case Study of Lagos Baptist Conference
2. A Comparative Study of the Concept of Leadership Among the Nigerian Baptist Convention and the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).
3. Causes and Solutions to the Prevalence of Bad Leadership in the Church of Christ: A Case Study of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference.